



## **BERKSHIRE PREMIER NETBALL LEAGUE RULES 2023/2024**

The Berkshire Premier Netball League is a Saturday League with fixtures played in accordance with the fixture list. Unless otherwise stated below, the rules of England Netball shall apply.

### **1. REGISTRATION**

All players playing in the Berkshire Premier Netball League (BPNL) should hold membership of England Netball, Netball South and Berkshire Netball. All players must also be registered to their team via Engage.

A team may register a maximum of 20 players. Team lists complete with individual England ID numbers must be submitted to the EN membership & BPNL Results Secretary 14 days prior to the first game of the season.

Teams may field Regional 1/2/3 and U16/U19 players with no restrictions on quarters. However, no more than 2 Regional Division 2 or 1 player may take to the court in any match fixture. Players who play in a league higher (Prem and Superleague) may not be registered in BPNL.

With the exception of the players specified in the above paragraph teams may add players to their registration list after the start of the season provided that their registration does not exceed 20 players and they do so before midnight of the Thursday before the player's first game.

Should a player wish to change teams she can be de-registered and re-registered with another team once during the season for a permanent playing position, not deemed as borrowing, the registration secretary must be notified. This must be done in writing by both teams.

Any team playing a player not registered in the Berkshire Premier League will forfeit the game and will lose 2 points. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals.

No team may take the court with fewer than 5 registered players (England Netball rule 5) and borrow only 2 other players.

All players and officials, including scorers, must print and sign their names on the Results Form for each match.

#### **1.1. DE-REGISTERING/RE-REGISTERING PLAYERS**

a) A player/Captain wishing to remove themselves/a player from a team's registration should contact the EN membership BPNL Results Secretary.

b) A player may only de-register from one team and re-register for another once during any season. If a player de-registers they cannot later re-register for the same team.

c) If a player re-registers games already played, including those for the team with which the player was previously registered, will be considered a "Borrow" (See sections 11.2 and 12.2). The exception is where the league has adopted Divisional play. In this structure, if the player is moving between Division 1 teams only games played for Division 1 teams for which the player was not



registered will count towards the maximum number of borrows. If at the point of re-registering at the player has exceeded the maximum number of borrows, the team in question will not be penalised but no further borrowing can occur.

d) The maximum number of players that any individual team can deregister and replace is 5 and will be at the committee's discretion. A team may deregister more than 10 players however this will reduce the maximum number of players listed on their team sheet.

### **Safeguarding Young Players**

Unless otherwise agreed by the committee all players in BPNL will be aged 14 or over on 1st September prior to the commencement of the league (Proof of age may be requested). The committee reserve the right to consider younger applicants on the evidence supplied, for example the player has been identified by The Berkshire Netball Development Officer (Sarah Feast) an accredited Regional Talent ID coach.

### **2. DURATION OF GAME**

Games will consist of four quarters of 15 minutes with an interval of 2 minutes at quarter time and five minutes at half time. Timing will be controlled by a competent timekeeper from the home team and listed on the fixture sheet. There will be no injury time added. Injured players should leave the court immediately to allow play to continue. Care should be taken when moving injured players. No team may take to the court with fewer than 5 registered players (England Netball rule 5) and borrow only 2 other players.

### **3. LATE ARRIVALS**

Teams arriving late for a match will be penalised by losing two goals for being late plus one goal for every minute after the game has started. These goals will be added to the non-offending team's final score by the Umpires in charge of the game. If a team does not arrive 10 minutes after the start time of the match, the team shall forfeit the game and be deducted 5 points. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals.

### **4. MATCH OFFICIALS**

a) Each team must provide an umpire for a game in the opposite round. Umpires must be qualified to a minimum "C" award.

b). Should an umpire fail to arrive before the start of the game, the team on behalf of which he/she is umpiring, will be deducted 5 points. In the event that a substitute umpire can be found the game will go ahead and the team providing the umpire will not be deducted points. The substitute umpire must be qualified to "C" or above. If a substitute umpire cannot be found, the teams due to play can choose to play the match in their own time within 4 weeks of the fixture date or alternatively email a request to the committee to use the reserve date. Should a team regularly fail to provide an umpire (deemed 3 times or more across the season) their position in the league will be reviewed by the committee.

c) If an umpire becomes unwell/injured a substitute umpire may be used but only if immediately available. The substitute umpire must be qualified to "C" award or above. A delay of up to 5 minutes to the timing will be permitted to make this arrangement. If an umpire cannot be found the result will stand if play has commenced in the third quarter. If the game is abandoned prior to the



start of the 3rd quarter, the game must be replayed within 4 weeks of the fixture date, or alternatively, email a request to the committee to use a reserve date.

d) Each team must provide a competent scorer for their fixture. Teams that fail to provide a scorer will be deducted 1 point.

## **5. RESULTS**

A Results Form shall be thoroughly completed by each team for every match and it is the responsibility of each team to ensure it has been signed by both umpires and all players who took to the court. The EN membership & BPNL Results Secretary must receive either the original at the fixture or a scanned copy by Sunday 5pm following the match. Failure to adhere to any of the above will result in a deduction of 5 points.

Add google form & results sec email address

The following points system shall be used:-

5 points for a win

3 points for a draw

2 points for the losing team if their score is within five goals of the opponent's score

1 point for the losing team if they obtain more than 50% of the opponent's score

## **6. CONCEDED GAMES**

If a match is cancelled for any reason other than rules 8 and 9, then the offending team will have 5 points deducted and the opposition will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals. In the event of a team cancelling more than once in any one half of the season, they could be disqualified from the League in which case all previous results will then be calculated in accordance with rule 10.

Each team captain has the responsibility of informing their umpire, their opponents and the EN membership & Results Secretary of the cancelled game. Failure to notify both opponents and the EN membership & Results Secretary will result in a £35 fine.

## **7. POSTPONEMENTS**

No team may postpone or cancel a match without the agreement of BPNL. Games will be played as set out on the fixture list and according to the Constitution. Any team, which is unable to field a team for a match, should notify their opponents and the EN membership & Results Secretary at least 3 days prior to the fixture. The opponents will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals.

The committee reserves the right to allow a game to be arranged in exceptional circumstances. Any team requesting any postponement must do so in writing at a minimum of 14 days in advance. Should a game be rearranged the full cost of this game will be funded by the team requesting the rearranged fixture, including the payment of both umpires.

Postponed fixtures must be played within 4 weeks of the fixture date. Should the teams be unable to agree upon a mutually convenient date to play the postponed fixture then the Committee will specify when and where it will be played.

Where a game is forfeited, the opponents will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals. The forfeiting team will also be deducted 2 points.



## **8. ABANDONED GAMES**

If a game is abandoned due to serious injury to a player or any other unforeseen extra-ordinary circumstances, the result will stand if play has commenced in the third quarter. If the game is abandoned prior to the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the game must be replayed within 4 weeks of the fixture date. If a game is abandoned prior to the start of 3rd quarter, this fixture will be replayed within 4 weeks of the original date and at the committee's discretion.

## **9. WITHDRAWAL**

For teams withdrawing from the League during the first half of the season, all points and goals earned by the opposition shall be considered void.

If a team withdraws during the second half of the season all points and goals earned by the opposition during the second half of the season shall be considered void.

## **10. FINAL PLACINGS**

In the event of teams finishing on the same number of points, goal average will decide placings.

## **11. South Play Off Entry**

- a) Entry into the South Open Division 3 Play Offs will be through the Berkshire Netball Regional Qualifying Tournament. Teams wanting to enter ensure they are aware of the rules and eligibility criteria prior to entering.
- b) Teams must be aware of the eligibility criteria to enter the South Region play-offs (this can be found on the Netball South website).

## **12. LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

In the event of the number of participants in the league being 12 or below the Superleague structure shall apply. The Committee shall have authority to decide the structure of the league if the number of participants is greater than 14. If the Committee decided to move to Divisional play team will be divided based on their finishing positions, the previous season. New teams will join Division 2.

## **13. SUPERLEAGUE PLAY**

### **13.1 STRUCTURE**

Each team will play each other once to determine which teams will be in the higher and lower tiers. Teams will then play the teams in their own tier and there will be a winner and runner up for each tier. Points from the first half of the season will be **NOT** be carried forward.

### **13.2 BORROWING PLAYERS**

Teams may borrow a player from any team within the league. Players may only play twice for the same team and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> time will be registered with that team in accordance with the rules above.



In the event of a team failing to comply with the above, the team will forfeit the game and lose 2 points. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals.

## **14. DIVISIONAL PLAY**

### **14.1 STRUCTURE**

Teams will be split into two divisions with a maximum of 10 teams in each. Each team will play each other twice. Depending on the number of entries into the BPNL, the committee shall decide the structure of the two divisions.

### **14.2 BORROWING PLAYERS**

Division 1 teams may borrow any player from Division 2. A borrowed player may only play for the same team twice during the season.

Division 2 teams may borrow the same registered player from other Division 2 teams 3 times.

In the event of a team failing to comply with the above, the team will forfeit the game and lose 2 points. The non-offending team will be awarded 5 points and 20 goals.

### **14.3 PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

a) The top two teams in Division 2 will move up into Division 1 and the bottom two teams from Division 1 will go down into Division 2.

b) If league is at capacity the bottom two teams from Division 2 will lose their places in the Premier League but may enter the application rally.

c) An application rally will be held at the end of each season. The vacant Division 2 positions will be offered to the two top teams in that rally. If an application rally is not held, teams may enter the BPNL at the discretion of the Committee. The application rally will be open to any team with the following restriction on individual players:

d) Only players who will be available to play for that team during the next season may play in the rally.

e) Any player who plays in the rally must play a minimum of three games in the following season (unless unable to do so due to pregnancy or injury). Failure to comply will result in that team being deducted 10 points at the end of the season.

f) Players will be required to register on the day of the rally to enable the Committee to monitor the number of games played by each player during the following season.

## **15. FINES**

If a fine is not received within 14 days of notification the amount payable will be Doubled

## **16. HEALTH AND SAFETY.**



a) If a player has a blood injury they must immediately notify the umpire and leave the court to tend to the wound. Play will continue whilst the player is off the court. The player can only return to the game once the umpire is satisfied that the wound has been cleaned and covered completely.

b) Gloves which meet All England guidelines may be worn, i.e. are plain, soft leather or microfibre (e.g. neoprene) which are manufactured without seams (or with internally sewn seams) and have no abrasive materials or anything that may constitute a danger to another player.

c). Hats/Headscarves which meet All England guidelines may be worn, i.e. the material used for the head covering is soft and without embellishments, which might constitute a danger to any other player on the court, and with potential flowing/flapping edges held securely around the neck or tucked into the shirt collar. It should be as neat and secure as possible.

d). Fingernails, real or acrylic, shall be short and smooth, even when wearing gloves.

e) BPNL recommends that individuals (player/coach/umpire) if pregnant should only participate with approval from their doctor and in accordance with any guidelines.

England Netball Personal Accident Insurance cover excludes any loss of expense due to pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or any consequence thereof. If for example a member who is pregnant is involved in an accident not related to the pregnancy subject to the conditions of the policy the relevant benefits would be payable. However, if any situation (such as hospitalisation) was prolonged as a result of pregnancy, pregnancy complications and even early childbirth then this portion of any claim is not covered.

## **17. LIABILITY**

The Berkshire Premier League does not hold itself responsible for:

a) injuries incurred or any loss of equipment or valuables.

b) pets, should not be brought to League fixtures.

c) children, are brought solely at the parent's risk, and should be kept under control at all times, for the safety of both players and children. Failure to comply with this may result in the responsible adult/player being asked to leave the court area with the child, at the discretion of the umpire or a committee member.

## **18. GRIEVANCES AND DISPUTES**

Complaints of any nature shall be submitted in writing to the BPNL Secretary or BPNL Chair within seven (7) working days of the incident. Complaints shall be dealt with in accordance with Section 7 of the BPNL Constitution. Outcomes of complaints may be reported to AENA at the Committee's discretion.

**Amended and approved TBC**